

SENATE BILL 3825  
By Jackson

AN ACT to name bridges on State Route 840 in honor of  
the late Sergeant Roger D. Rowe, Tennessee  
National Guard.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this general assembly have seen fit to  
name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the  
United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Sergeant Roger D.  
Rowe of Bon Aqua, who was the first Tennessee National Guardsmen to be killed in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, while pursuing freedom and democracy for the people of Iraq, Sergeant  
Rowe was fatally wounded by sniper fire near Baghdad on July 9, 2003, during an ambush of  
the convoy in which he was driving a tanker fuel truck; the death of this brave patriot is mourned  
by a grateful state and nation; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Glenclyff High School in Nashville, Sergeant Rowe married his  
beloved wife, Shirley, at age 21 before first answering his nation's call to duty by serving a tour  
in Vietnam as an Army Surgical Technician; and

WHEREAS, deeply aware of the rights and responsibilities of freedom and American  
citizenship, he had served for the last seventeen years in the Tennessee Army National Guard,  
even volunteering for duty in Operation Desert Storm, although he was never called up; and

WHEREAS, when the United States military returned to Iraq in 2003, Sergeant Rowe  
was once again willing to serve his country, even though he was not required to enter into  
harm's way to do so; although his unit, Detachment 1, 771<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Company of  
Hohenwald, had not been called up, he volunteered to deploy with the 1174<sup>th</sup> Transportation  
Company of Dresden and Newbern when it issued a call for truck drivers; and

WHEREAS, according to his family, Sergeant Rowe did not hesitate to go to war, because he believed it was his duty and because he hoped that by fighting for his country he might prevent his children and grandchildren from having to do the same some day; and

WHEREAS, for his heroic actions, Sergeant Rowe was posthumously presented the Army Commendation Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Bon Aqua community, he was deeply devoted to his family above all and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Roger D. Rowe is dearly missed by his surviving family members and friends, including his wife of nearly thirty-four years, Shirley, his children, Scott, Mart, Marty, and Regina, and his seven cherished grandchildren, Brandon, Chandler, Zachary, Bryant, Hannah, Eli, and Chase; and

WHEREAS, Roger D. Rowe served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Roger D. Rowe's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly desires to name certain parallel bridges on State Route 840 in Williamson County to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Sergeant Roger D. Rowe; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the parallel bridges spanning State Route 100 on State Route 840 in Williamson County are hereby designated as the "Sgt. Roger D. Rowe Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the gallant and bountiful life of the late Sergeant Roger D. Rowe, Tennessee National Guard.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Sgt. Roger D. Rowe Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, §54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.